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(57) Abstract

A purified thermostable enzyme is derived from the archael bacterium *Thermococcus GUSL5*. The enzyme has a molecular weight of about 68.5 kilodaltons and has cellulase activity. The enzyme can be produced from native or recombinant host cells and can be used for the removal of arginine, phenylalanine, or methionine amino acids from the N-terminal end of peptides in peptide or peptidomimetic synthesis. The enzyme is selective for the L, or "natural" enantiomer of the amino acid derivatives and is therefore useful for the production of optically active compounds. These reactions can be performed in the presence of the chemically more reactive ester functionality, a step which is very difficult to achieve with nonenzymatic methods.

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AMIDASE

This invention relates to newly identified polynucleotides, polypeptides encoded by such polynucleotides, the use of such polynucleotides and polypeptides, as well as the production and isolation of such polynucleotides and polypeptides. More particularly, the polypeptide of the present invention has been identified as an amidase and in particular an enzyme having activity in the removal of arginine, phenylalanine or methionine from the N-terminal end of peptides in peptide or peptidomimetic synthesis.

Thermophilic bacteria have received considerable attention as sources of highly active and thermostable enzymes (Bronneomeier, K. and Staudenbauer, W.L., D.R. Woods (Ed.), The Clostridia and Biotechnology, Butterworth Publishers, Stoneham, MA (1993). Recently, the most extremely thermophilic organotrophic eubacteria presently known have been isolated and characterized. These bacteria, which belong to the genus *Thermotoga*, are fermentative microorganisms metabolizing a variety of carbohydrates (Huber, R. and Stetter, K.O., in Ballows, et al., (Ed.), The Procaryotes, 2nd Ed., Springer-Verlaz, New York, pgs. 3809-3819 (1992)).

Because to date most organisms identified from the archaeal domain are thermophiles or hyperthermophiles, archaeal bacteria are also considered a fertile source of thermophilic enzymes.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

In accordance with one aspect of the present invention, there is provided a novel enzyme, as well as active fragments, analogs and derivatives thereof.

In accordance with another aspect of the present invention, there are provided isolated nucleic acid molecules encoding an enzyme of the present invention including mRNAs, DNAs, cDNAs, genomic DNAs as well as active analogs and fragments of such enzymes.

In accordance with yet a further aspect of the present invention, there is provided a process for producing such polypeptide by recombinant techniques comprising culturing recombinant prokaryotic and/or eukaryotic host cells, containing a nucleic acid sequence encoding an enzyme of the present invention, under conditions promoting expression of said enzyme and subsequent recovery of said enzyme.

In accordance with yet a further aspect of the present invention, there is provided a process for utilizing such enzyme, or polynucleotide encoding such enzyme. The enzyme is useful for the removal of arginine, phenylalanine, or methionine amino acids from the N-terminal end of peptides in peptide or peptidomimetic synthesis. The enzyme is selective for the L, or "natural" enantiomer of the amino acid derivatives and is therefore useful for the production of optically active compounds. These reactions can be performed in the presence of the chemically more reactive ester functionality, a step which is very difficult to

achieve with nonenzymatic methods. The enzyme is also able to tolerate high temperatures (at least 70°C), and high concentrations of organic solvents (>40% DMSO), both of which cause a disruption of secondary structure in peptides; this enables cleavage of otherwise resistant bonds.

In accordance with yet a further aspect of the present invention, there is also provided nucleic acid probes comprising nucleic acid molecules of sufficient length to specifically hybridize to a nucleic acid sequence of the present invention.

In accordance with yet a further aspect of the present invention, there is provided a process for utilizing such enzymes, or polynucleotides encoding such enzymes, for *in vitro* purposes related to scientific research, for example, to generate probes for identifying similar sequences which might encode similar enzymes from other organisms.

These and other aspects of the present invention should be apparent to those skilled in the art from the teachings herein.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The following drawings are illustrative of embodiments of the invention and are not meant to limit the scope of the invention as encompassed by the claims.

Figure 1 is an illustration of the full-length DNA and corresponding deduced amino acid sequence of the enzyme of the present invention. Sequencing was performed using a 378 automated DNA sequencer (Applied Biosystems, Inc.).

Figure 2 shows the fluorescence versus concentration of DMSO. The filled and open boxes represent individual assays from Example 3.

Figure 3 shows the relative initial linear rates (increase in fluorescence per min. *i.e.* "activity") versus concentration of DMF for the more reactive CBZ-L-arg-AMC, from Example 3.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

The term "gene" means the segment of DNA involved in producing a polypeptide chain; it includes regions preceding and following the coding region (leader and trailer) as well as intervening sequences (introns) between individual coding segments (exons).

A coding sequence is "operably linked to" another coding sequence when RNA polymerase will transcribe the two coding sequences into a single mRNA, which is then translated into a single polypeptide having amino acids derived from both coding sequences. The coding sequences need not be contiguous to one another so long as the expressed sequences are ultimately processed to produce the desired protein.

"Recombinant" enzymes refer to enzymes produced by recombinant DNA techniques; *i.e.*, produced from cells transformed by an exogenous DNA construct encoding the desired enzyme. "Synthetic" enzymes are those prepared by chemical synthesis.

The present invention provides substantially pure amidase enzymes. The term "substantially pure" is used herein to describe a molecule, such as a polypeptide (*e.g.*, an amidase polypeptide, or a fragment thereof) that is substantially free of other proteins, lipids, carbohydrates, nucleic acids, and other biological materials with which it is naturally associated. For example, a substantially pure molecule, such as a polypeptide, can be at least 60%, by dry weight, the molecule of interest. The purity of the polypeptides can

be determined using standard methods including, e.g., polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis (e.g., SDS-PAGE), column chromatography (e.g., high performance liquid chromatography (HPLC)), and amino-terminal amino acid sequence analysis.

A DNA "coding sequence of" or a "nucleotide sequence encoding" a particular enzyme, is a DNA sequence which is transcribed and translated into an enzyme when placed under the control of appropriate regulatory sequences. A "promotor sequence" is a DNA regulatory region capable of binding RNA polymerase in a cell and initiating transcription of a downstream (3' direction) coding sequence. The promoter is part of the DNA sequence. This sequence region has a start codon at its 3' terminus. The promoter sequence does include the minimum number of bases where elements necessary to initiate transcription at levels detectable above background. However, after the RNA polymerase binds the sequence and transcription is initiated at the start codon (3' terminus with a promoter), transcription proceeds downstream in the 3' direction. Within the promotor sequence will be found a transcription initiation site (conveniently defined by mapping with nuclease S1) as well as protein binding domains (consensus sequences) responsible for the binding of RNA polymerase.

The present invention provides a purified thermostable enzyme that catalyzes the removal of arginine, phenylalanine, or methionine amino acids from the N-terminal end of peptides in peptide or peptidomimetic synthesis. The purified enzyme is an

amidase derived from an organism referred to herein as "*Thermococcus* GU5L5" which is a thermophilic archaeal organism which has a very high temperature optimum. The organism is strictly anaerobic and grows between 55 and 90°C (optimally at 85°C). GU5L5 was discovered in a shallow marine hydrothermal area in Vulcano, Italy. The organism has coccoid cells occurring in singlets or pairs. GU5L5 grows optimally at 85°C and pH 6.0 in a marine medium with peptone as a substrate and nitrogen in gas phase.

The polynucleotide of this invention was originally recovered from a genomic gene library derived from *Thermococcus* GU5L5 as described below. It contains an open reading frame encoding a protein of 622 amino acid residues.

In a preferred embodiment, the amidase enzyme of the present invention has a molecular weight of about 68.5 kilodaltons as inferred from the nucleotide sequence of the gene.

In accordance with an aspect of the present invention, there are provided isolated nucleic acid molecules (polynucleotides) which encode for the mature enzyme having the deduced amino acid sequence of Figure 1 (SEQ ID NO:2).

This invention, in addition to the isolated nucleic acid molecule encoding an amidase enzyme disclosed in Figure 1 (SEQ ID NO:1), also provides substantially similar sequences. Isolated nucleic acid sequences are substantially similar if: (i) they are

capable of hybridizing under stringent conditions, hereinafter described, to SEQ ID NO:1; or (ii) they encode DNA sequences which are degenerate to SEQ ID NO:1. Degenerate DNA sequences encode the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, but have variations in the nucleotide coding sequences. As used herein, "substantially similar" refers to the sequences having similar identity to the sequences of the instant invention. The nucleotide sequences that are substantially similar can be identified by hybridization or by sequence comparison. Enzyme sequences that are substantially similar can be identified by one or more of the following: proteolytic digestion, gel electrophoresis and/or microsequencing.

One means for isolating a nucleic acid molecule encoding an amidase enzyme is to probe a gene library with a natural or artificially designed probe using art recognized procedures (see, for example: Current Protocols in Molecular Biology, Ausubel F.M. *et al.* (EDS.) Green Publishing Company Assoc. and John Wiley Interscience, New York, 1989, 1992). It is appreciated to one skilled in the art that SEQ ID NO:1, or fragments thereof (comprising at least 15 contiguous nuclectides), is a particularly useful probe. Other particular useful probes for this purpose are hybridizable fragments to the sequences of SEQ ID NO:1 (*i.e.*, comprising at least 15 contiguous nucleotides).

With respect to nucleic acid sequences which hybridize to specific nucleic acid sequences disclosed herein, hybridization may be carried out under conditions of reduced stringency, medium stringency or even stringent conditions. As an example of oligonucleotide

hybridization, a polymer membrane containing immobilized denatured nucleic acid is first prehybridized for 30 minutes at 45°C in a solution consisting of 0.9 M NaCl, 50 mM NaH_2PO_4, pH 7.0, 5.0 mM Na_2EDTA, 0.5% SDS, 10X Denhardt's, and 0.5 mg/mL polyriboadenylic acid. Approximately 2 X 10^7 cpm (specific activity 4-9 X 10^8 cpm/ug) of ^{32}P end-labeled oligonucleotide probe are then added to the solution. After 12-16 hours of incubation, the membrane is washed for 30 minutes at room temperature in 1X SET (150 mM NaCl, 20 mM Tris hydrochloride, pH 7.8, 1 mM Na_2EDTA) containing 0.5% SDS, followed by a 30 minute wash in fresh 1X SET at Tm-10°C for the oligo-nucleotide probe. The membrane is then exposed to auto-radiographic film for detection of hybridization signals.

Stringent conditions means hybridization will occur only if there is at least 90% identity, preferably at least 95% identity and most preferably at least 97% identity between the sequences. *See* J. Sambrook *et al.*, Molecular Cloning, A Laboratory Manual (2d Ed. 1989) (Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory) which is hereby incorporated by reference in its entirety.

"Identity" as the term is used herein, refers to a polynucleotide sequence which comprises a percentage of the same bases as a reference polynucleotide (SEQ ID NO:1). For example, a polynucleotide which is at least 90% identical to a reference polynucleotide, has polynucleotide bases which are identical in 90% of the bases which make up the reference polynucleotide and may have different bases in 10% of the bases which comprise that polynucleotide sequence.

The present invention also relates to polynucleotides which differ from the reference polynuclectide such that the changes are silent changes, for example the changes do not alter the amino acid sequence encoded by the polynucleotide. The present invention also relates to nucleotide changes which result in amino acid substitutions, additions, deletions, fusions and truncations in the enzyme encoded by the reference polynucleotide (SEQ ID NO:1). In a preferred aspect of the invention these enzymes retain the same biological action as the enzyme encoded by the reference polynucleotide.

It is also appreciated that such probes can be and are preferably labeled with an analytically detectable reagent to facilitate identification of the probe. Useful reagents include but are not limited to radioactivity, fluorescent dyes or enzymes capable of catalyzing the formation of a detectable product. The probes are thus useful to isolate complementary copies of DNA from other animal sources or to screen such sources for related sequences.

The coding sequence for the amidase enzyme of the present invention was identified by preparing a *Thermococcus* GU5L5 genomic DNA library and screening the library for the clones having amidase activity. Such methods for constructing a genomic gene library are well-known in the art. One means, for example, comprises shearing DNA isolated from GU5L5 by physical disruption. A small amount of the sheared DNA is checked on an agarose gel to verify that the majority of the DNA is in the desired size range (approximately 3-6 kb). The DNA

is then blunt ended using Mung Bean Nuclease, incubated at 37°C and phenol/chloroform extracted. The DNA is then methylated using Eco RI Methylase. Eco RI linkers are then ligated to the blunt ends through the use of T4 DNA ligase and incubation at 4°C. The ligation reaction is then terminated and the DNA is cut-back with Eco RI restriction enzyme. The DNA is then size fractionated on a sucrose gradient following procedures known in the art, for example, Maniatis, T., *et al.*, Molecular Cloning, Cold Spring Harbor Press, New York, 1982, which is hereby incorporated by reference in its entirety.

A plate assay is then performed to get an approximate concentration of the DNA. Ligation reactions are then performed and 1 µl of the ligation reaction is packaged to construct a library. Packaging, for example, may occur through the use of purified λgt11 phage arms cut with EcoRI and DNA cut with EcoRI after attaching EcoRI linkers. The DNA and λgt11 arms are ligated with DNA ligase. The ligated DNA is then packaged into infectious phage particles. The packaged phages are used to infect *E. coli* cultures and the infected cells are spread on agar plates to yield plates carrying thousands of individual phage plaques. The library is then amplified.

Fragments of the full length gene of the present invention may be used as a hybridization probe for a cDNA or a genomic library to isolate the full length DNA and to isolate other DNAs which have a high sequence similarity to the gene or similar biological activity. Probes of this type have at least 10, preferably at least 15, and even more preferably at least 30 bases and may

contain, for example, at least 50 or more bases. The probe may also be used to identify a DNA clone corresponding to a full length transcript and a genomic clone or clones that contain the complete gene including regulatory and promotor regions, exons, and introns.

The isolated nucleic acid sequences and other enzymes may then be measured for retention of biological activity characteristic to the enzyme of the present invention, for example, in an assay for detecting enzymatic amidase activity. Such enzymes include truncated forms of amidase, and variants such as deletion and insertion variants.

The polynucleotide of the present invention may be in the form of DNA which DNA includes cDNA, genomic DNA, and synthetic DNA. The DNA may be double-stranded or single-stranded, and if single stranded may be the coding strand or non-coding (anti-sense) strand. The coding sequence which encodes the mature enzyme may be identical to the coding sequence shown in Figure 1 (SEQ ID NO:1) and/or that of the deposited clone or may be a different coding sequence which coding sequence, as a result of the redundancy or degeneracy of the genetic code, encodes the same mature enzyme as the DNA of Figure 1 (SEQ ID NO:1).

The polynucleotide which encodes for the mature enzyme of Figure 1 (SEQ ID NO:2) may include, but is not limited to: only the coding sequence for the mature enzyme; the coding sequence for the mature enzyme and additional coding sequence such as a leader sequence or a proprotein sequence; the coding sequence for the mature enzyme (and optionally additional coding sequence) and

non-coding sequence, such as introns or non-coding sequence 5' and/or 3' of the coding sequence for the mature enzyme.

Thus, the term "polynucleotide encoding an enzyme (protein)" encompasses a polynucleotide which includes only coding sequence for the enzyme as well as a polynucleotide which includes additional coding and/or non-coding sequence.

The present invention further relates to variants of the hereinabove described polynucleotides which encode for fragments, analogs and derivatives of the enzyme having the deduced amino acid sequence of Figure 1 (SEQ ID NO:2). The variant of the polynucleotide may be a naturally occurring allelic variant of the polynucleotide or a non-naturally occurring variant of the polynucleotide.

Thus, the present invention includes polynucleotides encoding the same mature enzyme as shown in Figure 1 (SEQ ID NO:2) as well as variants of such polynucleotides which variants encode for a fragment, derivative or analog of the enzyme of Figure 1 (SEQ ID NO:2). Such nucleotide variants include deletion variants, substitution variants and addition or insertion variants.

As hereinabove indicated, the polynucleotide may have a coding sequence which is a naturally occurring allelic variant of the coding sequence shown in Figure 1 (SEQ ID NO:1). As known in the art, an allelic variant is an alternate form of a polynucleotide sequence which

may have a substitution, deletion or addition of one or more nucleotides, which does not substantially alter the function of the encoded enzyme.

The present invention also includes polynucleotides, wherein the coding sequence for the mature enzyme may be fused in the same reading frame to a polynucleotide sequence which aids in expression and secretion of an enzyme from a host cell, for example, a leader sequence which functions to control transport of an enzyme from the cell. The enzyme having a leader sequence is a preprotein and may have the leader sequence cleaved by the host cell to form the mature form of the enzyme. The polynucleotides may also encode for a proprotein which is the mature protein plus additional 5' amino acid residues. A mature protein having a prosequence is a proprotein and is an inactive form of the protein. Once the prosequence is cleaved an active mature protein remains.

Thus, for example, the polynucleotide of the present invention may encode for a mature enzyme, or for an enzyme having a prosequence or for an enzyme having both a prosequence and a presequence (leader sequence).

The present invention further relates to polynucleotides which hybridize to the hereinabove-described sequences if there is at least 70%, preferably at least 90%, and more preferably at least 95% identity between the sequences. The present invention particularly relates to polynucleotides which hybridize under stringent conditions to the hereinabove-described polynucleotides. As herein used, the term "stringent

conditions" means hybridization will occur only if there is at least 95% and preferably at least 97% identity between the sequences. The polynucleotides which hybridize to the hereinabove described polynucleotides in a preferred embodiment encode enzymes which either retain substantially the same biological function or activity as the mature enzyme encoded by the DNA of Figure 1 (SEQ ID NO:1).

Alternatively, the polynucleotide may have at least 15 bases, preferably at least 30 bases, and more preferably at least 50 bases which hybridize to a polynucleotide of the present invention and which has an identity thereto, as hereinabove described, and which may or may not retain activity. For example, such polynucleotides may be employed as probes for the polynucleotide of SEQ ID NO:1, for example, for recovery of the polynucleotide or as a PCR primer.

Thus, the present invention is directed to polynucleotides having at least a 70% identity, preferably at least 90% identity and more preferably at least a 95% identity to a polynucleotide which encodes the enzyme of SEQ ID NO:2 as well as fragments thereof, which fragments have at least 30 bases and preferably at least 50 bases and to enzymes encoded by such polynucleotides.

The present invention further relates to a enzyme which has the deduced amino acid sequence of Figure 1 (SEQ ID NO:2), as well as fragments, analogs and derivatives of such enzyme.

The terms "fragment," "derivative" and "analog" when referring to the enzyme of Figure 1 (SEQ ID NO:2) means a enzyme which retains essentially the same biological function or activity as such enzyme. Thus, an analog includes a proprotein which can be activated by cleavage of the proprotein portion to produce an active mature enzyme.

The enzyme of the present invention may be a recombinant enzyme, a natural enzyme or a synthetic enzyme, preferably a recombinant enzyme.

The fragment, derivative or analog of the enzyme of Figure 1 (SEQ ID NO:2) may be (i) one in which one or more of the amino acid residues are substituted with a conserved or non-conserved amino acid residue (preferably a conserved amino acid residue) and such substituted amino acid residue may or may not be one encoded by the genetic code, or (ii) one in which one or more of the amino acid residues includes a substituent group, or (iii) one in which the mature enzyme is fused with another compound, such as a compound to increase the half-life of the enzyme (for example, polyethylene glycol), or (iv) one in which the additional amino acids are fused to the mature enzyme, such as a leader or secretory sequence or a sequence which is employed for purification of the mature enzyme or a proprotein sequence. Such fragments, derivatives and analogs are deemed to be within the scope of those skilled in the art from the teachings herein.

The enzymes and polynucleotides of the present invention are preferably provided in an isolated form, and preferably are purified to homogeneity.

The term "isolated" means that the material is removed from its original environment (*e.g.*, the natural environment if it is naturally occurring). For example, a naturally-occurring polynucleotide or enzyme present in a living animal is not isolated, but the same polynucleotide or enzyme, separated from some or all of the coexisting materials in the natural system, is isolated. Such polynucleotides could be part of a vector and/or such polynucleotides or enzymes could be part of a composition, and still be isolated in that such vector or composition is not part of its natural environment.

The enzymes of the present invention include the enzyme of SEQ ID NO:2 (in particular the mature enzyme) as well as enzymes which have at least 70% similarity (preferably at least 70% identity) to the enzyme of SEQ ID NO:2 and more preferably at least 90% similarity (more preferably at least 90% identity) to the enzyme of SEQ ID NO:2 and still more preferably at least 95% similarity (still more preferably at least 95% identity) to the enzyme of SEQ ID NO:2 and also include portions of such enzymes with such portion of the enzyme generally containing at least 30 amino acids and more preferably at least 50 amino acids.

As known in the art "similarity" between two enzymes is determined by comparing the amino acid sequence and its conserved amino acid substitutes of one enzyme to the sequence of a second enzyme. Similarity

may be determined by procedures which are well-known in the art, for example, a BLAST program (Basic Local Alignment Search Tool at the National Center for Biological Information).

A variant, i.e. a "fragment", "analog" or "derivative" enzyme, and reference enzyme may differ in amino acid sequence by one or more substitutions, additions, deletions, fusions and truncations, which may be present in any combination.

Among preferred variants are those that vary from a reference by conservative amino acid substitutions. Such substitutions are those that substitute a given amino acid in a polypeptide by another amino acid of like characteristics. Typically seen as conservative substitutions are the replacements, one for another, among the aliphatic amino acids Ala, Val, Leu and Ile; interchange of the hydroxyl residues Ser and Thr, exchange of the acidic residues Asp and Glu, substitution between the amide residues Asn and Gln, exchange of the basic residues Lys and Arg and replacements among the aromatic residues Phe, Tyr.

Most highly preferred are variants which retain the same biological function and activity as the reference polypeptide from which it varies.

Fragments or portions of the enzymes of the present invention may be employed for producing the corresponding full-length enzyme by peptide synthesis; therefore, the fragments may be employed as intermediates for producing the full-length enzymes. Fragments or

portions of the polynucleotides of the present invention may be used to synthesize full-length polynucleotides of the present invention.

The present invention also relates to vectors which include polynucleotides of the present invention, host cells which are genetically engineered with vectors of the invention and the production of enzymes of the invention by recombinant techniques.

Host cells are genetically engineered (transduced or transformed or transfected) with the vectors containing the polynucleotides of this invention. Such vectors may be, for example, a cloning vector or an expression vector. The vector may be, for example, in the form of a plasmid, a viral particle, a phage, etc. The engineered host cells can be cultured in conventional nutrient media modified as appropriate for activating promoters, selecting transformants or amplifying the genes of the present invention. The culture conditions, such as temperature, pH and the like, are those previously used with the host cell selected for expression, and will be apparent to the ordinarily skilled artisan.

The polynucleotides of the present invention may be employed for producing enzymes by recombinant techniques. Thus, for example, the polynucleotide may be included in any one of a variety of expression vectors for expressing an enzyme. Such vectors include chromosomal, nonchromosomal and synthetic DNA sequences, *e.g.*, derivatives of SV40; bacterial plasmids; phage DNA; baculovirus; yeast plasmids; vectors derived from

combinations of plasmids and phage DNA, viral DNA such as vaccinia, adenovirus, fowl pox virus, and pseudorabies. However, any other vector may be used as long as it is replicable and viable in the host.

The appropriate DNA sequence may be inserted into the vector by a variety of procedures. In general, the DNA sequence is inserted into an appropriate restriction endonuclease site(s) by procedures known in the art. Such procedures and others are deemed to be within the scope of those skilled in the art.

The DNA sequence in the expression vector is operatively linked to an appropriate expression control sequence(s) (promoter) to direct mRNA synthesis. As representative examples of such promoters, there may be mentioned: LTR or SV40 promoter, the *E. coli. lac* or *trp*, the phage lambda P_L promoter and other promoters known to control expression of genes in prokaryotic or eukaryotic cells or their viruses. The expression vector also contains a ribosome binding site for translation initiation and a transcription terminator. The vector may also include appropriate sequences for amplifying expression.

In addition, the expression vectors preferably contain one or more selectable marker genes to provide a phenotypic trait for selection of transformed host cells such as dihydrofolate reductase or neomycin resistance for eukaryotic cell culture, or such as tetracycline or ampicillin resistance in *E. coli*.

The vector containing the appropriate DNA sequence

as hereinabove described, as well as an appropriate promoter or control sequence, may be employed to transform an appropriate host to permit the host to express the protein.

As representative examples of appropriate hosts, there may be mentioned: bacterial cells, such as *E. coli*, Streptomyces, *Bacillus subtilis;* fungal cells, such as yeast; insect cells such as *Drosophila S2* and *Spodoptera Sf9;* animal cells such as CHO, COS or Bowes melanoma; adenoviruses; plant cells, etc. The selection of an appropriate host is deemed to be within the scope of those skilled in the art from the teachings herein.

More particularly, the present invention also includes recombinant constructs comprising one or more of the sequences as broadly described above. The constructs comprise a vector, such as a plasmid or viral vector, into which a sequence of the invention has been inserted, in a forward or reverse orientation. In a preferred aspect of this embodiment, the construct further comprises regulatory sequences, including, for example, a promoter, operably linked to the sequence. Large numbers of suitable vectors and promoters are known to those of skill in the art, and are commercially available. The following vectors are provided by way of example; Bacterial: pQE70, pQE60, pQE-9 (Qiagen), pBluescript II (Stratagene); pTRC99a, pKK223-3, pDR540, pRIT2T (Pharmacia); Eukaryotic: pXT1, pSG5 (Stratagene) pSVK3, pBPV, pMSG, pSVLSV40 (Pharmacia). However, any other plasmid or vector may be used as long as they are replicable and viable in the host.

Promoter regions can be selected from any desired gene using CAT (chloramphenicol transferase) vectors or other vectors with selectable markers. Two appropriate vectors are pKK232-8 and pCM7. Particular named bacterial promoters include lacI, lacZ, T3, T7, gpt, lambda P_R, P_L and *trp*. Eukaryotic promoters include CMV immediate early, HSV thymidine kinase, early and late SV40, LTRs from retrovirus, and mouse metallothionein-I. Selection of the appropriate vector and promoter is well within the level of ordinary skill in the art.

In a further embodiment, the present invention relates to host cells containing the above-described constructs. The host cell can be a higher eukaryotic cell, such as a mammalian cell, or a lower eukaryotic cell, such as a yeast cell, or the host cell can be a prokaryotic cell, such as a bacterial cell. Introduction of the construct into the host cell can be effected by calcium phosphate transfection, DEAE-Dextran mediated transfection, or electroporation (Davis, L., Dibner, M., Battey, I., Basic Methods in Molecular Biology, (1986)).

The constructs in host cells can be used in a conventional manner to produce the gene product encoded by the recombinant sequence. Alternatively, the enzymes of the invention can be synthetically produced by conventional peptide synthesizers.

Mature proteins can be expressed in mammalian cells, yeast, bacteria, or other cells under the control of appropriate promoters. Cell-free translation systems can also be employed to produce such proteins using RNAs derived from the DNA constructs of the present invention.

Appropriate cloning and expression vectors for use with prokaryotic and eukaryotic hosts are described by Sambrook *et al.*, Molecular Cloning: A Laboratory Manual, Second Edition, Cold Spring Harbor, N.Y., (1989), the disclosure of which is hereby incorporated by reference.

Transcription of the DNA encoding the enzymes of the present invention by higher eukaryotes is increased by inserting an enhancer sequence into the vector. Enhancers are cis-acting elements of DNA, usually about from 10 to 300 bp that act on a promoter to increase its transcription. Examples include the SV40 enhancer on the late side of the replication origin bp 100 to 270, a cytomegalovirus early promoter enhancer, the polyoma enhancer on the late side of the replication origin, and adenovirus enhancers.

Generally, recombinant expression vectors will include origins of replication and selectable markers permitting transformation of the host cell, *e.g.*, the ampicillin resistance gene of *E. coli* and *S. cerevisiae* TRP1 gene, and a promoter derived from a highly-expressed gene to direct transcription of a downstream structural sequence. Such promoters can be derived from operons encoding glycolytic enzymes such as 3-phosphoglycerate kinase (PGK), α-factor, acid phosphatase, or heat shock proteins, among others. The heterologous structural sequence is assembled in appropriate phase with translation initiation and termination sequences, and preferably, a leader sequence capable of directing secretion of translated enzyme. Optionally, the heterologous sequence can encode a fusion enzyme including an N-terminal identification peptide imparting

desired characteristics, *e.g.*, stabilization or simplified purification of expressed recombinant product.

Useful expression vectors for bacterial use are constructed by inserting a structural DNA sequence encoding a desired protein together with suitable translation initiation and termination signals in operable reading phase with a functional promoter. The vector will comprise one or more phenotypic selectable markers and an origin of replication to ensure maintenance of the vector and to, if desirable, provide amplification within the host. Suitable prokaryotic hosts for transformation include *E. coli, Bacillus subtilis, Salmonella typhimurium* and various species within the genera Pseudomonas, Streptomyces, and Staphylococcus, although others may also be employed as a matter of choice.

As a representative but nonlimiting example, useful expression vectors for bacterial use can comprise a selectable marker and bacterial origin of replication derived from commercially available plasmids comprising genetic elements of the well known cloning vector pBR322 (ATCC 37017). Such commercial vectors include, for example, pKK223-3 (Pharmacia Fine Chemicals, Uppsala, Sweden) and GEM1 (Promega Biotec, Madison, WI, USA). These pBR322 "backbone" sections are combined with an appropriate promoter and the structural sequence to be expressed.

Following transformation of a suitable host strain and growth of the host strain to an appropriate cell density, the selected promoter is induced by appropriate

means (e.g., temperature shift or chemical induction) and cells are cultured for an additional period.

Cells are typically harvested by centrifugation, disrupted by physical or chemical means, and the resulting crude extract retained for further purification.

Microbial cells employed in expression of proteins can be disrupted by any convenient method, including freeze-thaw cycling, sonication, mechanical disruption, or use of cell lysing agents, such methods are well known to those skilled in the art.

Various mammalian cell culture systems can also be employed to express recombinant protein. Examples of mammalian expression systems include the COS-7 lines of monkey kidney fibroblasts, described by Gluzman, Cell, 23:175 (1981), and other cell lines capable of expressing a compatible vector, for example, the C127, 3T3, CHO, HeLa and BHK cell lines. Mammalian expression vectors will comprise an origin of replication, a suitable promoter and enhancer, and also any necessary ribosome binding sites, polyadenylation site, splice donor and acceptor sites, transcriptional termination sequences, and 5' flanking nontranscribed sequences. DNA sequences derived from the SV40 splice, and polyadenylation sites may be used to provide the required nontranscribed genetic elements.

The enzyme can be recovered and purified from recombinant cell cultures by methods including ammonium sulfate or ethanol precipitation, acid extraction, anion

or cation exchange chromatography, phosphocellulose chromatography, hydrophobic interaction chromatography, affinity chromatography, hydroxylapatite chromatography and lectin chromatography. Protein refolding steps can be used, as necessary, in completing configuration of the mature protein. Finally, high performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) can be employed for final purification steps.

The enzymes of the present invention may be a naturally purified product, or a product of chemical synthetic procedures, or produced by recombinant techniques from a prokaryotic or eukaryotic host (for example, by bacterial, yeast, higher plant, insect and mammalian cells in culture). Depending upon the host employed in a recombinant production procedure, the enzymes of the present invention may be glycosylated or may be non-glycosylated. Enzymes of the invention may or may not also include an initial methionine amino acid residue.

The enzymes, their fragments or other derivatives, or analogs thereof, or cells expressing them can be used as an immunogen to produce antibodies thereto. These antibodies can be, for example, polyclonal or monoclonal antibodies. The present invention also includes chimeric, single chain, and humanized antibodies, as well as Fab fragments, or the product of an Fab expression library. Various procedures known in the art may be used for the production of such antibodies and fragments.

Antibodies generated against the enzymes corresponding to a sequence of the present invention can

be obtained by direct injection of the enzymes into an animal or by administering the enzymes to an animal, preferably a nonhuman. The antibody so obtained will then bind the enzymes itself. In this manner, even a sequence encoding only a fragment of the enzymes can be used to generate antibodies binding the whole native enzymes. Such antibodies can then be used to isolate the enzyme from cells expressing that enzyme.

For preparation of monoclonal antibodies, any technique which provides antibodies produced by continuous cell line cultures can be used. Examples include the hybridoma technique (Kohler and Milstein, 1975, Nature, 256:495-497), the trioma technique, the human B-cell hybridoma technique (Kozbor et al., 1983, Immunology Today 4:72), and the EBV-hybridoma technique to produce human monoclonal antibodies (Cole, et al., 1985, in Monoclonal Antibodies and Cancer Therapy, Alan R. Liss, Inc., pp. 77-96).

Techniques described for the production of single chain antibodies (U.S. Patent 4,946,778) can be adapted to produce single chain antibodies to immunogenic enzyme products of this invention. Also, transgenic mice may be used to express humanized antibodies to immunogenic enzyme products of this invention.

Antibodies generated against the enzyme of the present invention may be used in screening for similar enzymes from other organisms and samples. Such screening techniques are known in the art, for example, one such screening assay is described in "Methods for Measuring Cellulase Activities", *Methods in Enzymology*, Vol 160,

pp. 87-116, which is hereby incorporated by reference in its entirety. Antibodies may also be employed as a probe to screen gene libraries generated from this or other organisms to identify this or cross reactive activities.

The term "antibody," as used herein, refers to intact immunoglobulin molecules, as well as fragments of immunoglobulin molecules, such as Fab, Fab', $(Fab')_2$, Fv, and SCA fragments, that are capable of binding to an epitope of an amidase polypeptide. These antibody fragments, which retain some ability to selectively bind to the antigen (*e.g.*, an amidase antigen) of the antibody from which they are derived, can be made using well known methods in the art (see, *e.g.*, Harlow and Lane, *supra*), and are described further, as follows.

(1) A Fab fragment consists of a monovalent antigen-binding fragment of an antibody molecule, and can be produced by digestion of a whole antibody molecule with the enzyme papain, to yield a fragment consisting of an intact light chain and a portion of a heavy chain.

(2) A Fab' fragment of an antibody molecule can be obtained by treating a whole antibody molecule with pepsin, followed by reduction, to yield a molecule consisting of an intact light chain and a portion of a heavy chain. Two Fab' fragments are obtained per antibody molecule treated in this manner.

(3) A $(Fab')_2$ fragment of an antibody can be obtained by treating a whole antibody molecule with the enzyme

pepsin, without subsequent reduction. A $(Fab')_2$ fragment is a dimer of two Fab' fragments, held together by two disulfide bonds.

(4) An Fv fragment is defined as a genetically engineered fragment containing the variable region of a light chain and the variable region of a heavy chain expressed as two chains.

(5) A single chain antibody ("SCA") is a genetically engineered single chain molecule containing the variable region of a light chain and the variable region of a heavy chain, linked by a suitable, flexible polypeptide linker.

As used in this invention, the term "epitope" refers to an antigenic determinant on an antigen, such as an amidase polypeptide, to which the paratope of an antibody, such as an amidase-specific antibody, binds. Antigenic determinants usually consist of chemically active surface groupings of molecules, such as amino acids or sugar side chains, and can have specific three-dimensional structural characteristics, as well as specific charge characteristics.

The present invention is further described with reference to the following examples; however, it is to be understood that the present invention is not limited to such examples. All parts or amounts, unless otherwise specified, are by weight.

In order to facilitate understanding of the following examples certain frequently occurring methods and/or terms will be described.

"Plasmids" are designated by a lower case p preceded and/or followed by capital letters and/or numbers. The starting plasmids herein are either commercially available, publicly available on an unrestricted basis, or can be constructed from available plasmids in accord with published procedures. In addition, equivalent plasmids to those described are known in the art and will be apparent to the ordinarily skilled artisan.

"Digestion" of DNA refers to catalytic cleavage of the DNA with a restriction enzyme that acts only at certain sequences in the DNA. The various restriction enzymes used herein are commercially available and their reaction conditions, cofactors and other requirements were used as would be known to the ordinarily skilled artisan. For analytical purposes, typically 1 µg of plasmid or DNA fragment is used with about 2 units of enzyme in about 20 µl of buffer solution. For the purpose of isolating DNA fragments for plasmid construction, typically 5 to 50 µg of DNA are digested with 20 to 250 units of enzyme in a larger volume. Appropriate buffers and substrate amounts for particular restriction enzymes are specified by the manufacturer. Incubation times of about 1 hour at 37°C are ordinarily used, but may vary in accordance with the supplier's instructions. After digestion the reaction is electrophoresed directly on a polyacrylamide gel to isolate the desired fragment.

Size separation of the cleaved fragments is performed using 8 percent polyacrylamide gel described by Goeddel, D. *et al.*, Nucleic Acids Res., 8:4057 (1980).

"Oligonucleotides" refers to either a single stranded polydeoxynucleotide or two complementary polydeoxynucleotide strands which may be chemically synthesized. Such synthetic oligonucleotides may or may not have a 5' phosphate. Those that do not will not ligate to another oligonucleotide without adding a phosphate with an ATP in the presence of a kinase. A synthetic oligonucleotide will ligate to a fragment that has not been dephosphorylated.

"Ligation" refers to the process of forming phosphodiester bonds between two double stranded nucleic acid fragments (Maniatis *et al.*, *Id.*, p. 146). Unless otherwise provided, ligation may be accomplished using known buffers and conditions with 10 units of T4 DNA ligase ("ligase") per 0.5 µg of approximately equimolar amounts of the DNA fragments to be ligated.

Unless otherwise stated, transformation was performed as described in the method of Sambrook, Fritsch and Maniatus, 1989.

Example 1

Bacterial Expression and Purification of Amidase

A *Thermococcus* GU5L5 genomic library was screened for amidase activity as described in Example 2 and a positive clone was identified and isolated. DNA of this clone was used as a template in a 100 µl PCR reaction using the following primer sequences:

5' primer: CCGAGAATTC ATTAAAGAGG AGAAATTAAC TATGACCGGC ATCGAATGGA 3' (SEQ ID NO:3). 3' primer: 5' AATAAGGATC CACACTGGCA CAGTGTCAAG ACA 3' (SEQ ID NO:4).

The protein was expressed in *E. coli*. The gene was amplified using PCR with the primers indicated above.

Subsequent to amplification, the PCR product was cloned into the *EcoRI* and *Bam*HI sites of pQET1 and transformed by electroporation into *E. coli* M15(pREP4). The resulting transformants were grown up in 3ml cultures, and a portion of this culture was induced. A portion of the uninduced and induced cultures were assayed using Z-L-Phe-AMC (see below).

The primer sequences set out above may also be employed to isolate the target gene from the deposited material by hybridization techniques described above.

Example 2

Discovery of an amidase from *Thermococcus* GU5L5

Production of the expression gene bank.

Colonies containing pBluescript plasmids with random inserts from the organism *Thermococcus* GU5L5 was obtained according to the method of Hay and Short. (Hay, B. and Short, J., *Strategies*. **1992**, 5, 16.) The resulting colonies were picked with sterile toothpicks and used to singly inoculate each of the wells of 96-well microtiter plates. The wells contained 250 µL of LB media with 100 µg/mL ampicillin, 80 µg/mL methicillin, and 10% v/v glycerol (LB Amp/Meth, glycerol). The cells were grown overnight at 37°C without shaking. This

constituted generation of the "SourceGeneBank"; each well of the Source GeneBank thus contained a stock culture of *E. coli* cells, each of which contained a pBluescript plasmid with a unique DNA insert.

Screening for amidase activity.

The plates of the Source GeneBank were used to multiply inoculate a single plate (the "Condensed Plate") containing in each well 200 µL of LB Amp/Meth, glycerol. This step was performed using the High Density Replicating Tool (HDRT) of the Beckman Biomek with a 1% bleach, water, isopropanol, air-dry sterilization cycle in between each inoculation. Each well of the Condensed Plate thus contained 10 to 12 different pBluescript clones from each of the source library plates. The Condensed Plate was grown for 16h at 37°C and then used to inoculate two white 96-well Polyfiltronics microtiter daughter plates containing in each well 250 µL of LB Amp/Meth (without glycerol). The original condensed plate was put in storage -80°C. The two condensed daughter plates were incubated at 37°C for 18 h.

The `600 µM substrate stock solution' was prepared as follows: 25 mg of N-morphourea-L-phenylalanyl-7-amido-4-trifluoromethylcoumarin (Mu-Phe-AFC, Enzyme Systems Products, Dublin, CA) was dissolved in the appropriate volume of DMSO to yield a 25.2 mM solution. Two hundred fifty microliters of DMSO solution was added to ca. 9 mL of 50 mM, pH 7.5 Hepes buffer containing 0.6 mg/mL of dodecyl maltoside. The volume was taken to 10.5 mL with the above Hepes buffer to yield a cloudy solution.

Mu-Phe-AFC

Fifty uL of the '600 µM stock solution' was added to each of the wells of a white condensed plate using the Biomek to yield a final concentration of substrate of ~100 µM. The fluorescence values were recorded (excitation = 400 nm, emission = 505 nm) on a plate reading fluorometer immediately after addition of the substrate. The plate was incubated at 70°C for 60 min. and the fluorescence values were recorded again. The initial and final fluorescence values were subtracted to determine if an active clone was present by an increase in fluorescence over the majority of the other wells.

Isolation of the active clone.

In order to isolate the individual clone which carried the activity, the Source GeneBank plates were thawed and the individual wells used to singly inoculate a new plate containing LB Amp/Meth. As above the plate was incubated at 37°C to grow the cells, and 50 uL of 600 µM substrate stock solution added using the Biomek. Once the active well from the source plate was identified, the cells from the source plate were used to inoculate 3mL cultures of LB/AMP/Meth, which were grown overnight. The plasmid DNA was isolated from the cultures and utilized for sequencing and construction of expression subclones.

Example 3

Thermococcus GU5L5 Amidase characterization

Substrate specificity.

Using the following substrates (see below for definitions of the abbreviations): CBZ-L-ala-AMC, CBZ-L-

arg-AMC, CBZ-L-met-AMC, CBZ-L-phe-AMC, and 7-methylumbelliferyl heptanoate at 100μM for 1 hour at 70°C in the assays as described in the clone discovery section, the relative activity of the amidase was 3:3:1:<0.1: <0.1 for the compounds CBZ-L-arg-AMC : CBZ-L-phe-AMC : CBZ-L-met-AMC : CBZ-L-ala-AMC : 7-methylumbelliferyl heptanoate. The excitation and emission wavelengths for the 7-amido-4-methylcoumarins were 380 and 460 nm respectively, and 326 and 450 for the methylumbelliferone.

The abbreviations stand for the following compounds:

CBZ-L-ala-AMC = Nα-carbonylbenzyloxy-L-alanine-7-amido-4-methylcoumarin

CBZ-L-arg-AMC = Nα-carbonylbenzyloxy-L-arginine-7-amido-4-methylcoumarin

CBZ-D-arg-AMC = Nα-carbonylbenzyloxy-D-arginine-7-amido-4-methylcoumarin

CBZ-L-met-AMC = Nα-carbonylbenzyloxy-L-methionine-7-amido-4-methylcoumarin

CBZ-L-phe-AMC = Nα-carbonylbenzyloxy-L-phenylalanine-7-amido-4-methylcoumarin

Organic solvent sensitivity.

The activity of the amidase in increasing concentrations of dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO) was tested as follows: to each well of a microtiter plate was added 10 μL of 3 mM CBZ-L-phe-AMC in DMSO, 25 μL of cell lysate containing the amidase activity, and 250 μL of a variable mixture of DMSO:pH 7.5, 50 mM Hepes buffer. The reactions were heated for 1 hour at 70°C and the

fluorescence measured. Figure 2 shows the fluorescence versus concentration of DMSO. The filled and open boxes represent individual assays.

The activity and enantioselectivity of the amidase in increasing concentrations of dimethyl formamide (DMF) was tested as follows: to each well of a microtiter plate was added 30 µL of 1 mM CBZ-L-arg-AMC or CBZ-D-arg-AMC in DMF, 30 µL of cell lysate containing the amidase activity, and 240 µL of a variable mixture of DMF:pH 7.5, 50 mM Hepes buffer. The reactiosn were incubated at RT for 1 hour and the fluorescence measured at 1 minute intervals. Figure 3 shows the relative initial linear rates (increase in fluorescence per min, *i.e.*, 'activity') versus concentration of DMF for the more reactive CBZ-L-arg-AMC.

The initial linear rate ('activity') of the L and the D CBZ-arg-AMC substrates are shown in Tables 1 and 2 below:

Table 1

Activity of the CBZ-L-arg-AMC:

DMF	Initial Rate,
	Fl.U./min
0.4%	654
10%	2548
20%	1451
30%	541
40%	345

Table 2

Activity of the CBZ-D-arg-AMC:

DMF	Initial Rate,
	Fl.U./min
0.4%	0.3
10%	10.1
20%	4.6
30%	1.8
40%	0.9

50%	303
60%	190
75%	81
90%	11

50%	1.2
60%	1.4
75%	0.1
90%	0.1

The above data indicate that the enzyme shows excellent selectivity for the L, or 'natural' enantiomer of the derivatized amino acid substrate.

Numerous modifications and variations of the present invention are possible in light of the above teachings and, therefore, within the scope of the appended claims, the invention may be practiced otherwise than as particularly described.

SEQUENCE LISTING

(1) GENERAL INFORMATION:

(i) APPLICANT: Recombinant Biocatalysis, Inc.

(ii) TITLE OF INVENTION:Amidases

(iii) NUMBER OF SEQUENCES: 4

(iv) CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS:

(A) ADDRESSEE: FISH & RICHARDSON
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(C) CITY: LA JOLLA
(D) STATE: CA
(E) COUNTRY: USA
(F) ZIP: 92037

(v) COMPUTER READABLE FORM:
(A) MEDIUM TYPE: 3.5 INCH DISKETTE
(B) COMPUTER: IBM PS/2
(C) OPERATING SYSTEM: MS-DOS
(D) SOFTWARE: WORD PERFECT 6.0

(vi) CURRENT APPLICATION DATA:
(A) APPLICATION NUMBER: Unassigned
(B) FILING DATE: Herewith
(C) CLASSIFICATION:

(vii) PRIOR APPLICATION DATA:
(A) APPLICATION NUMBER: 08/664,646
(B) FILING DATE: 17 June 1996

(viii) ATTORNEY/AGENT INFORMATION:
(A) NAME: LISA A. HAILE, Ph.D.
(B) REGISTRATION NUMBER: 38,347
(C) REFERENCE/DOCKET NUMBER: 09010/005WO1

(ix) TELECOMMUNICATION INFORMATION:
(A) TELEPHONE: 619-678-5070
(B) TELEFAX: 619-678-5099

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:1:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS
(A) LENGTH: 1869 NUCLEOTIDES
(B) TYPE: NUCLEIC ACID
(C) STRANDEDNESS: SINGLE
(D) TOPOLOGY: LINEAR

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: DNA

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:1:

```
ATG ACC GGC ATC GAA TGG AAC CAC GAG ACC TTT TCT AAG TTC GCC TAC          48
Met Thr Gly Ile Glu Trp Asn His Glu Thr Phe Ser Lys Phe Ala Tyr
  1               5                  10                  15

CTG GGC GAC CCG AGG ATA CGG GGA AAC TTA ATC GCG TAC ACC CTG ACG          96
Leu Gly Asp Pro Arg Ile Arg Gly Asn Leu Ile Ala Tyr Thr Leu Thr
            20                  25                  30

AAG GCC AAC ATG AAG GAC AAC AAG TAC GAG AGC ACG GTT GTT GTT GAA         144
Lys Ala Asn Met Lys Asp Asn Lys Tyr Glu Ser Thr Val Val Val Glu
        35                  40                  45

GAC CTT GAA ACG GGC TCA AGG CGC TTC ATC GAG AAC GCC TCA ATG CCG         192
Asp Leu Glu Thr Gly Ser Arg Arg Phe Ile Glu Asn Ala Ser Met Pro
    50                  55                  60

AGG ATT TCG CCA GAC GGC AGA AAG CTC GCC TTC ACC TGC TTT AAC GAG         240
Arg Ile Ser Pro Asp Gly Arg Lys Leu Ala Phe Thr Cys Phe Asn Glu
65                  70                  75                  80

GAG AAG AAG GAG ACC GAG ATA TGG GTG GCC GAT ATC CAG ACC CTG AGC         288
Glu Lys Lys Glu Thr Glu Ile Trp Val Ala Asp Ile Gln Thr Leu Ser
                85                  90                  95

GCC AAG AAA GTC CTC TCA ACT AAA AAC GTC CGC TCG ATG CAG TGG AAC         336
Ala Lys Lys Val Leu Ser Thr Lys Asn Val Arg Ser Met Gln Trp Asn
            100                 105                 110

GAC GAT TCA AGG AGA CTC TTA GTT GTC GGC TTC AAG AGG AGG GAC GAT         384
Asp Asp Ser Arg Arg Leu Leu Val Val Gly Phe Lys Arg Arg Asp Asp
        115                 120                 125

GAG GAC TTC GTC TTT GAC GAC GAC GTC CCG GTC TGG TTC GAC AAT ATG         432
Glu Asp Phe Val Phe Asp Asp Asp Val Pro Val Trp Phe Asp Asn Met
    130                 135                 140

GGA TTC TTT GAT GGA GAG AAG ACG ACG TTC TGG GTT CTT GAC ACT GAG         480
Gly Phe Phe Asp Gly Glu Lys Thr Thr Phe Trp Val Leu Asp Thr Glu
145                 150                 155                 160

GCC GAG GAG ATA ATC GAG CAG TTC GAG AAG CCG AGG TTT TCG AGT GGC         528
Ala Glu Glu Ile Ile Glu Gln Phe Glu Lys Pro Arg Phe Ser Ser Gly
                165                 170                 175

CTC TGG CAC GGC GAT GCG ATA GTT GTG AAC GTC CCG CAC CGC GAG GGG         576
Leu Trp His Gly Asp Ala Ile Val Val Asn Val Pro His Arg Glu Gly
            180                 185                 190
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AGC AAG CCT GCC CTG TTC AAG TTC TAC GAC ATA GTC CTA TGG AAG GAC          624
Ser Lys Pro Ala Leu Phe Lys Phe Tyr Asp Ile Val Leu Trp Lys Asp
        195                 200                 205

GGG GAG GAA GAG AAG CTC TTC GAG AGG GTC TCC TTC GAG GCG GTT GAC          672
Gly Glu Glu Glu Lys Leu Phe Glu Arg Val Ser Phe Glu Ala Val Asp
    210                 215                 220

TCC GAC GGA AAG AGA ATA CTC CTG AGG GGC AAG AAA AAA AAG CGG TTC          720
Ser Asp Gly Lys Arg Ile Leu Leu Arg Gly Lys Lys Lys Lys Arg Phe
225                 230                 235                 240

ATC AGC GAG CAC GAC TGG CTG TAC CTC TGG GAC GGC GAG CTT AAA CCG          768
Ile Ser Glu His Asp Trp Leu Tyr Leu Trp Asp Gly Glu Leu Lys Pro
                245                 250                 255

ATC TAC GAG GGC CCG CTC GAC GTC TGG GAA GCC AAG CTC ACG GAA GGA          816
Ile Tyr Glu Gly Pro Leu Asp Val Trp Glu Ala Lys Leu Thr Glu Gly
            260                 265                 270

AAG GTC TAC TTC CTC ACT CCA GAT GCG GGC AGG GTA AAC CTC TGG CTC          864
Lys Val Tyr Phe Leu Thr Pro Asp Ala Gly Arg Val Asn Leu Trp Leu
        275                 280                 285

TGG GAC GGG AAG GCC GAG CGT GTT GTT ACC GGC GAC CAC TGG ATT TAC          912
Trp Asp Gly Lys Ala Glu Arg Val Val Thr Gly Asp His Trp Ile Tyr
    290                 295                 300

GGG CTT GAC GTC AGC GAT GGC AAA GCA TTG CTC CTC ATC ATG ACC GCC          960
Gly Leu Asp Val Ser Asp Gly Lys Ala Leu Leu Leu Ile Met Thr Ala
305                 310                 315                 320

ACG AGG ATA GGC GAG CTC TAC CTC TAC GAC GGC GAG CTG AAA CAG GTC         1008
Thr Arg Ile Gly Glu Leu Tyr Leu Tyr Asp Gly Glu Leu Lys Gln Val
                325                 330                 335

ACC GAA TAC AAC GGG CCG ATA TTC AGG AAG CTC AAG ACC TTC GAG CCG         1056
Thr Glu Tyr Asn Gly Pro Ile Phe Arg Lys Leu Lys Thr Phe Glu Pro
            340                 345                 350

AGG CAC TTC CGC TTC AAG AGC AAA GAC CTC GAG ATA GAC GGC TGG TAC         1104
Arg His Phe Arg Phe Lys Ser Lys Asp Leu Glu Ile Asp Gly Trp Tyr
        355                 360                 365

CTC AGG CCG GAG GTT AAA GAG GAG AAG GCC CCG GTG ATA GTC TTC GTC         1152
Leu Arg Pro Glu Val Lys Glu Glu Lys Ala Pro Val Ile Val Phe Val
    370                 375                 380

CAC GGC GGG CCG AAG GGC ATG TAC GGA CAC CGC TTC GTC TAC GAG ATG         1200
His Gly Gly Pro Lys Gly Met Tyr Gly His Arg Phe Val Tyr Glu Met
385                 390                 395                 400

CAG CTG ATG GCG AGC AAG GGC TAC TAC TGC TGC TTC GTG AAC CCG CGC         1248
Gln Leu Met Ala Ser Lys Gly Tyr Tyr Val Val Phe Val Asn Pro Arg
                405                 410                 415

GGC AGC GAC GGC TAT AGC GAA GAC TTC GCG CTC CGC GTC CTG GAG AGG         1296
Gly Ser Asp Gly Tyr Ser Glu Asp Phe Ala Leu Arg Val Leu Glu Arg
            420                 425                 430
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ACT GGC TTG GAG GAC TTT GAG GAC ATA ATG AAC GGC ATC GAG GAG TTC          1344
Thr Gly Leu Glu Asp Phe Glu Asp Ile Met Asn Gly Ile Glu Glu Phe
        435                 440                 445

TTC AAG CTC GAA CCG CAG GCC GAC AGG GAG CGC GTT GGA ATA ACG GGC          1392
Phe Lys Leu Glu Pro Gln Ala Asp Arg Glu Arg Val Gly Ile Thr Gly
    450                 455                 460

ATA AGC TAC GGC GGC TTC ATG ACC AAC TGG GCC TTG ACT CAG AGC GAC          1440
Ile Ser Tyr Gly Gly Phe Met Thr Asn Trp Ala Leu Thr Gln Ser Asp
465                 470                 475                 480

CTC TTC AAG GCA GGA ATA AGC GAG AAC GGC ATA AGC TAC TGG CTC ACC          1488
Leu Phe Lys Ala Gly Ile Ser Glu Asn Gly Ile Ser Tyr Trp Leu Thr
                485                 490                 495

AGC TAC GCC TTC TCG GAC ATA GGG CTC TGG TAC GAC GTC GAG GTC ATC          1536
Ser Tyr Ala Phe Ser Asp Ile Gly Leu Trp Tyr Asp Val Glu Val Ile
            500                 505                 510

GGG CCA AAT CCG TTA GAG AAC GAG AAC TTC AGG AAG CTC AGC CCG CTG          1584
Gly Pro Asn Pro Leu Glu Asn Glu Asn Phe Arg Lys Leu Ser Pro Leu
        515                 520                 525

TTC TAC GCT CAG AAC GTG AAG GCG CCG ATA CTC CTA ATC CAC TCG CTT          1632
Phe Tyr Ala Gln Asn Val Lys Ala Pro Ile Leu Leu Ile His Ser Leu
    530                 535                 540

GAG GAC TAC CGC TGT CCG CTC GAC CAG AGC CTT ATG TTC TAC AAC GTG          1680
Glu Asp Tyr Arg Cys Pro Leu Asp Gln Ser Leu Met Phe Tyr Asn Val
545                 550                 555                 560

CTC AAG GAC ATG GGC AAG GAA GCC TAC ATA GCG ATA TTC AAG CGC GGC          1728
Leu Lys Asp Met Gly Lys Glu Ala Tyr Ile Ala Ile Phe Lys Arg Gly
                565                 570                 575

GCC CAC GGC CAC AGC GTC CGC GGA AGC CCG AGG CAC AGG CCG AAG CGC          1776
Ala His Gly His Ser Val Arg Gly Ser Pro Arg His Arg Pro Lys Arg
            580                 585                 590

TAC AGG CTC TTC ATA GAG TTC TTC GAG CGC AAG CTC AAG AAG TAC GAG          1824
Tyr Arg Leu Phe Ile Glu Phe Phe Glu Arg Lys Leu Lys Lys Tyr Glu
        595                 600                 605

GAG GGC TTT GAG GTA GAG AAG ATA CTC AAG GGG AAT GGG AAC TGA              1869
Glu Gly Phe Glu Val Glu Lys Ile Leu Lys Gly Asn Gly Asn
    610                 615                 620
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(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:2:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS

(A) LENGTH: 622 AMINO ACIDS

(B) TYPE: AMINO ACID

(C) STRANDEDNESS:

(D) TOPOLOGY: LINEAR

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: PROTEIN

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:2:

Met Thr Gly Ile Glu Trp Asn His Glu Thr Phe Ser Lys Phe Ala Tyr
5 10 15

Leu Gly Asp Pro Arg Ile Arg Gly Asn Leu Ile Ala Tyr Thr Leu Thr
20 25 30

Lys Ala Asn Met Lys Asp Asn Lys Tyr Glu Ser Thr Val Val Val Glu
35 40 45

Asp Leu Glu Thr Gly Ser Arg Arg Phe Ile Glu Asn Ala Ser Met Pro
50 55 60

Arg Ile Ser Pro Asp Gly Arg Lys Leu Ala Phe Thr Cys Phe Asn Glu
65 70 75 80

Glu Lys Lys Glu Thr Glu Ile Trp Val Ala Asp Ile Gln Thr Leu Ser
85 90 95

Ala Lys Lys Val Leu Ser Thr Lys Asn Val Arg Ser Met Gln Trp Asn
100 105 110

Asp Asp Ser Arg Arg Leu Leu Val Val Gly Phe Lys Arg Arg Asp Asp
115 120 125

Glu Asp Phe Val Phe Asp Asp Asp Val Pro Val Trp Phe Asp Asn Met
130 135 140

Gly Phe Phe Asp Gly Glu Lys Thr Thr Phe Trp Val Leu Asp Thr Glu
145 150 155 160

Ala Glu Glu Ile Ile Glu Gln Phe Glu Lys Pro Arg Phe Ser Ser Gly
165 170 175

Leu Trp His Gly Asp Ala Ile Val Val Asn Val Pro His Arg Glu Gly
180 185 190

Ser Lys Pro Ala Leu Phe Lys Phe Tyr Asp Ile Val Leu Trp Lys Asp
195 200 205

Gly Glu Glu Glu Lys Leu Phe Glu Arg Val Ser Phe Glu Ala Val Asp
210 215 220

Ser Asp Gly Lys Arg Ile Leu Leu Arg Gly Lys Lys Lys Lys Arg Phe
225 230 235 240

Ile Ser Glu His Asp Trp Leu Tyr Leu Trp Asp Gly Glu Leu Lys Pro
245 250 255

Ile Tyr Glu Gly Pro Leu Asp Val Trp Glu Ala Lys Leu Thr Glu Gly
260 265 270

Lys Val Tyr Phe Leu Thr Pro Asp Ala Gly Arg Val Asn Leu Trp Leu
275 280 285

Trp Asp Gly Lys Ala Glu Arg Val Val Thr Gly Asp His Trp Ile Tyr
290 295 300

Gly Leu Asp Val Ser Asp Gly Lys Ala Leu Leu Leu Ile Met Thr Ala
305 310 315 320

Thr Arg Ile Gly Glu Leu Tyr Leu Tyr Asp Gly Glu Leu Lys Gln Val
325 330 335

Thr Glu Tyr Asn Gly Pro Ile Phe Arg Lys Leu Lys Thr Phe Glu Pro
340 345 350

Arg His Phe Arg Phe Lys Ser Lys Asp Leu Glu Ile Asp Gly Trp Tyr
355 360 365

Leu Arg Pro Glu Val Lys Glu Glu Lys Ala Pro Val Ile Val Phe Val
370 375 380

His Gly Gly Pro Lys Gly Met Tyr Gly His Arg Phe Val Tyr Glu Met
385 390 395 400

Gln Leu Met Ala Ser Lys Gly Tyr Tyr Val Val Phe Val Asn Pro Arg
405 410 415

Gly Ser Asp Gly Tyr Ser Glu Asp Phe Ala Leu Arg Val Leu Glu Arg
420 425 430

Thr Gly Leu Glu Asp Phe Glu Asp Ile Met Asn Gly Ile Glu Glu Phe
435 440 445

Phe Lys Leu Glu Pro Gln Ala Asp Arg Glu Arg Val Gly Ile Thr Gly
450 455 460

Ile Ser Tyr Gly Gly Phe Met Thr Asn Trp Ala Leu Thr Gln Ser Asp
465 470 475 480

Leu Phe Lys Ala Gly Ile Ser Glu Asn Gly Ile Ser Tyr Trp Leu Thr
485 490 495

Ser Tyr Ala Phe Ser Asp Ile Gly Leu Trp Tyr Asp Val Glu Val Ile
500 505 510

Gly Pro Asn Pro Leu Glu Asn Glu Asn Phe Arg Lys Leu Ser Pro Leu
515 520 525

Phe Tyr Ala Gln Asn Val Lys Ala Pro Ile Leu Leu Ile His Ser Leu
530 535 540

Glu Asp Tyr Arg Cys Pro Leu Asp Gln Ser Leu Met Phe Tyr Asn Val
545 550 555 560

Leu Lys Asp Met Gly Lys Glu Ala Tyr Ile Ala Ile Phe Lys Arg Gly
565 570 575

Ala His Gly His Ser Val Arg Gly Ser Pro Arg His Arg Pro Lys Arg
580 585 590

Tyr Arg Leu Phe Ile Glu Phe Phe Glu Arg Lys Leu Lys Lys Tyr Glu
595 600 605

Glu Gly Phe Glu Val Glu Lys Ile Leu Lys Gly Asn Gly Asn
610 615 620

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:3:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS
(A) LENGTH: 50 NUCLEOTIDES
(B) TYPE: NUCLEIC ACID
(C) STRANDEDNESS: SINGLE
(D) TOPOLOGY: LINEAR

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: Oligonucleotide

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:3:

CCGAGAATTC ATTAAAGAGG AGAAATTAAC TATGACCGGC ATCGAATGGA 50

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:4:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS
(A) LENGTH: 33 NUCLEOTIDES
(B) TYPE: NUCLEIC ACID
(C) STRANDEDNESS: SINGLE
(D) TOPOLOGY: LINEAR

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: Oligonucleotide

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:4:

AATAAGGATC CACACTGGCA CAGTGTCAAG ACA 33

What Is Claimed Is:

1. An isolated polynucleotide which encodes the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2.

2. An isolated polynucleotide selected from the group consisting of:
   a) SEQ ID NO:1;
   b) SEQ ID NO:1, wherein T can also be U;
   c) nucleic acid sequences complementary to a) and b); and
   d) fragments of a), b), or c) that are at least 15 bases in length and that will hybridize to DNA which encodes the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.

3. The polynucleotide of claim 1, wherein the polynucleotide is isolated from a prokaryote.

4. An expression vector including the polynucleotide of claim 1.

5. The vector of claim 4, wherein the vector is a plasmid.

6. The vector of claim 4, wherein the vector is a virus-derived.

7. A host cell transformed with the vector of claim 4.

8. The host cell of claim 7, wherein the cell is prokaryotic.

9. The polynucleotide of claim 1 which encodes the enzyme comprising amino acid 1 to 622 of SEQ ID NO:2.

10. The polynucleotide of claim 1 comprising the sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO:1 from nucleotide 1 to nucleotide 1866.

11. A substantially pure polypeptide selected from the group consisting of:

a) an enzyme comprising an amino acid sequence which is at least 70% identical to the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2;

b) an enzyme which comprises at least 30 amino acid residues to the enzyme of a); and

c) the amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO:2.

12. Antibodies that bind to the polypeptide of claim 11.

13. The antibodies of claim 12, wherein the antibodies are polyclonal.

14. The antibodies of claim 12, wherein the antibodies are monoclonal.

15. A method for producing an enzyme comprising growing a host cell of claim 7 under conditions which allow the expression of the nucleic acid and isolating the enzyme encoded by the nucleic acid.

16. A process for producing a recombinant cell comprising transforming or transfecting the cell with the vector of claim 4 such that the cell expresses a polypeptide encoded by the DNA contained in the vector.

17. A process for removal of arginine phenylalanine or methionine from the N-terminal end of peptides in peptide or peptidomimetic synthesis, comprising: administering an amount of the enzyme of claim 10 effective for removal of arginine phenylalanine or methionine from the N-terminal end of peptides in peptide or peptidomimetic synthesis.

Figure 1

Thermococcus GU5L5 Amidase

```
      1  ATG ACC GGC ATC GAA TGG AAC CAC GAG ACC TTT TCT AAG TTC GCC TAC
CTG GGC GAC CCG   60
      1  Met Thr Gly Ile Glu Trp Asn His Glu Thr Phe Ser Lys Phe Ala Tyr
Leu Gly Asp Pro   20

     61  AGG ATA CGG GGA AAC TTA ATC GCG TAC ACC CTG ACG AAG GCC AAC ATG
AAG GAC AAC AAG   120
     21  Arg Ile Arg Gly Asn Leu Ile Ala Tyr Thr Leu Thr Lys Ala Asn Met
Lys Asp Asn Lys   40

    121  TAC GAG AGC ACG GTT GTT GTT GAA GAC CTT GAA ACG GGC TCA AGG CGC
TTC ATC GAG AAC   180
     41  Tyr Glu Ser Thr Val Val Val Glu Asp Leu Glu Thr Gly Ser Arg Arg
Phe Ile Glu Asn   60

    181  GCC TCA ATG CCG AGG ATT TCG CCA GAC GGC AGA AAG CTC GCC TTC ACC
TGC TTT AAC GAG   240
     61  Ala Ser Met Pro Arg Ile Ser Pro Asp Gly Arg Lys Leu Ala Phe Thr
Cys Phe Asn Glu   80

    241  GAG AAG AAG GAG ACC GAG ATA TGG GTG GCC GAT ATC CAG ACC CTG AGC
GCC AAG AAA GTC   300
     81  Glu Lys Lys Glu Thr Glu Ile Trp Val Ala Asp Ile Gln Thr Leu Ser
Ala Lys Lys Val   100

    301  CTC TCA ACT AAA AAC GTC CGC TCG ATG CAG TGG AAC GAC GAT TCA AGG
AGA CTC TTA GTT   360
    101  Leu Ser Thr Lys Asn Val Arg Ser Met Gln Trp Asn Asp Asp Ser Arg
Arg Leu Leu Val   120
```

361 GTC GGC TTC AAG AGG AGG GAC GAT GAG GAC TTC GTC TTT GAC GAC GAC GTC CCG GTC TGG 420

121 Val Gly Phe Lys Arg Arg Asp Asp Glu Asp Phe Val Phe Asp Asp Asp Val Pro Val Trp 140

421 TTC GAC AAT ATG GGA TTC TTT GAT GGA GAG AAG ACG ACG TTC TGG GTT CTT GAC ACT GAG 480

141 Phe Asp Asn Met Gly Phe Phe Asp Gly Glu Lys Thr Thr Phe Trp Val Leu Asp Thr Glu 160

481 GCC GAG GAG ATA ATC GAG CAG TTC GAG AAG CCG AGG TTT TCG AGT GGC CTC TGG CAC GGC 540

161 Ala Glu Glu Ile Ile Glu Gln Phe Glu Lys Pro Arg Phe Ser Ser Gly Leu Trp His Gly 180

541 GAT GCG ATA GTT GTG AAC GTC CCG CAC CGC GAG GGG AGC AAG CCT GCC CTG TTC AAG TTC 600

181 Asp Ala Ile Val Val Asn Val Pro His Arg Glu Gly Ser Lys Pro Ala Leu Phe Lys Phe 200

601 TAC GAC ATA GTC CTA TGG AAG GAC GGG GAG GAA GAG AAG CTC TTC GAG AGG GTC TCC TTC 660

201 Tyr Asp Ile Val Leu Trp Lys Asp Gly Glu Glu Glu Lys Leu Phe Glu Arg Val Ser Phe 220

661 GAG GCG GTT GAC TCC GAC GGA AAG AGA ATA CTC CTG AGG GGC AAG AAA AAA AAG CGG TTC 720

221 Glu Ala Val Asp Ser Asp Gly Lys Arg Ile Leu Leu Arg Gly Lys Lys Lys Lys Arg Phe 240

721 ATC AGC GAG CAC GAC TGG CTG TAC CTC TGG GAC GGC GAG CTT AAA CCG ATC TAC GAG GGC 780

241 Ile Ser Glu His Asp Trp Leu Tyr Leu Trp Asp Gly Glu Leu Lys Pro Ile Tyr Glu Gly 260

781 CCG CTC GAC GTC TGG GAA GCC AAG CTC ACG GAA GGA AAG GTC TAC TTC CTC ACT CCA GAT 840
261 Pro Leu Asp Val Trp Glu Ala Lys Leu Thr Glu Gly Lys Val Tyr Phe Leu Thr Pro Asp 280

841 GCG GGC AGG GTA AAC CTC TGG CTC TGG GAC GGG AAG GCC GAG CGT GTT GTT ACC GGC GAC 900
281 Ala Gly Arg Val Asn Leu Trp Leu Trp Asp Gly Lys Ala Glu Arg Val Val Thr Gly Asp 300

901 CAC TGG ATT TAC GGG CTT GAC GTC AGC GAT GGC AAA GCA TTG CTC CTC ATC ATG ACC GCC 960
301 His Trp Ile Tyr Gly Leu Asp Val Ser Asp Gly Lys Ala Leu Leu Leu Ile Met Thr Ala 320

961 ACG AGG ATA GGC GAG CTC TAC CTC TAC GAC GGC GAG CTG AAA CAG GTC ACC GAA TAC AAC 1020
321 Thr Arg Ile Gly Glu Leu Tyr Leu Tyr Asp Gly Glu Leu Lys Gln Val Thr Glu Tyr Asn 340

1021 GGG CCG ATA TTC AGG AAG CTC AAG ACC TTC GAG CCG AGG CAC TTC CGC TTC AAG AGC AAA 1080
341 Gly Pro Ile Phe Arg Lys Leu Lys Thr Phe Glu Pro Arg His Phe Arg Phe Lys Ser Lys 360

1081 GAC CTC GAG ATA GAC GGC TGG TAC CTC AGG CCG GAG GTT AAA GAG GAG AAG GCC CCG GTG 1140
361 Asp Leu Glu Ile Asp Gly Trp Tyr Leu Arg Pro Glu Val Lys Glu Glu Lys Ala Pro Val 380

1141 ATA GTC TTC GTC CAC GGC GGG CCG AAG GGC ATG TAC GGA CAC CGC TTC GTC TAC GAG ATG 1200
381 Ile Val Phe Val His Gly Gly Pro Lys Gly Met Tyr Gly His Arg Phe Val Tyr Glu Met 400

1201 CAG CTG ATG GCG AGC AAG GGC TAC TAC GTC GTC TTC GTG AAC CCG CGC GGC AGC GAC GGC 1260
401 Gln Leu Met Ala Ser Lys Gly Tyr Tyr Val Val Phe Val Asn Pro Arg Gly Ser Asp Gly 420

1261 TAT AGC GAA GAC TTC GCG CTC CGC GTC CTG GAG AGG ACT GGC TTG GAG GAC TTT GAG GAC 1320
421 Tyr Ser Glu Asp Phe Ala Leu Arg Val Leu Glu Arg Thr Gly Leu Glu Asp Phe Glu Asp 440

1321 ATA ATG AAC GGC ATC GAG GAG TTC TTC AAG CTC GAA CCG CAG GCC GAC AGG GAG CGC GTT 1380
441 Ile Met Asn Gly Ile Glu Glu Phe Phe Lys Leu Glu Pro Gln Ala Asp Arg Glu Arg Val 460

1381 GGA ATA ACG GGC ATA AGC TAC GGC GGC TTC ATG ACC AAC TGG GCC TTG ACT CAG AGC GAC 1440
461 Gly Ile Thr Gly Ile Ser Tyr Gly Gly Phe Met Thr Asn Trp Ala Leu Thr Gln Ser Asp 480

1441 CTC TTC AAG GCA GGA ATA AGC GAG AAC GGC ATA AGC TAC TGG CTC ACC AGC TAC GCC TTC 1500
481 Leu Phe Lys Ala Gly Ile Ser Glu Asn Gly Ile Ser Tyr Trp Leu Thr Ser Tyr Ala Phe 500

1501 TCG GAC ATA GGG CTC TGG TAC GAC GTC GAG GTC ATC GGG CCA AAT CCG TTA GAG AAC GAG 1560
501 Ser Asp Ile Gly Leu Trp Tyr Asp Val Glu Val Ile Gly Pro Asn Pro Leu Glu Asn Glu 520

1561 AAC TTC AGG AAG CTC AGC CCG CTG TTC TAC GCT CAG AAC GTG AAG GCG CCG ATA CTC CTA 1620
521 Asn Phe Arg Lys Leu Ser Pro Leu Phe Tyr Ala Gln Asn Val Lys Ala Pro Ile Leu Leu 540

1621 ATC CAC TCG CTT GAG GAC TAC CGC TGT CCG CTC GAC CAG AGC CTT ATG TTC TAC AAC GTG 1680
541 Ile His Ser Leu Glu Asp Tyr Arg Cys Pro Leu Asp Gln Ser Leu Met Phe Tyr Asn Val 560

1681 CTC AAG GAC ATG GGC AAG GAA GCC TAC ATA GCG ATA TTC AAG CGC GGC GCC CAC GGC CAC 1740

561 Leu Lys Asp Met Gly Lys Glu Ala Tyr Ile Ala Ile Phe Lys Arg Gly
Ala His Gly His 580

1741 AGC GTC CGC GGA AGC CCG AGG CAC AGG CCG AAG CGC TAC AGG CTC TTC
ATA GAG TTC TTC 1800
581 Ser Val Arg Gly Ser Pro Arg His Arg Pro Lys Arg Tyr Arg Leu Phe
Ile Glu Phe Phe 600

1801 GAG CGC AAG CTC AAG AAG TAC GAG GAG GGC TTT GAG GTA GAG AAG ATA
CTC AAG GGG AAT 1860
601 Glu Arg Lys Leu Lys Lys Tyr Glu Glu Gly Phe Glu Val Glu Lys Ile
Leu Lys Gly Asn 620

1861 GGG AAC TGA 1869
621 Gly Asn End 623

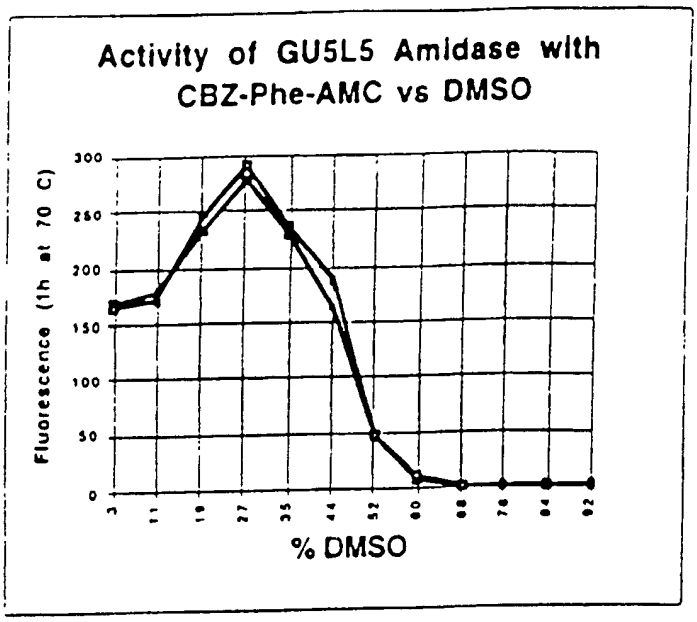

Figure 2

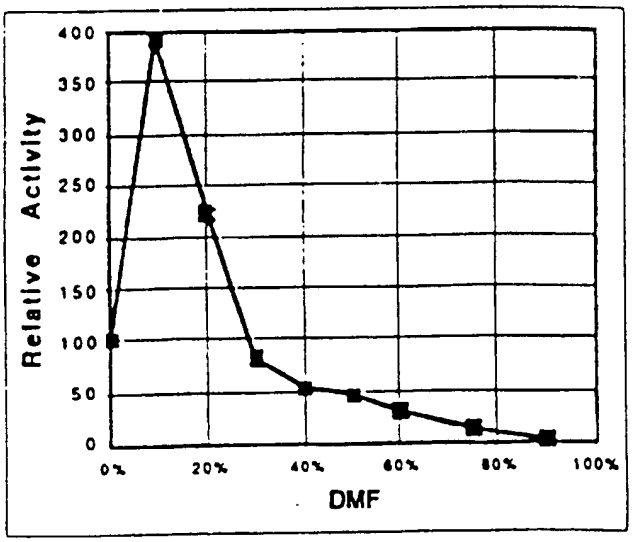

Figure 3

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US97/09319

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(6) : C12N 9/80, 15/00, 1/20; C12P 21/06; C07H 21/04; C07K 16/00
US CL :Please See Extra Sheet.
According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : 435/228, 69.1, 252.3, 320.1, 68.1; 536/23.2, 23.7; 530/387.1, 388.1

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

MPsrch pp - protein database search - geneseq25.

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

Please See Extra Sheet.

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 5,451,522 A (QUEENER et al.) 19 September 1995, see entire document.	1-17

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. ☐ See patent family annex.

*	Special categories of cited documents:	"T"	later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
"A"	document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"X"	document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
"E"	earlier document published on or after the international filing date	"Y"	document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
"L"	document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	"&"	document member of the same patent family
"O"	document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means		
"P"	document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed		

Date of the actual completion of the international search 11 AUGUST 1997	Date of mailing of the international search report 0 3 SEP 1997
Name and mailing address of the ISA/US Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks Box PCT Washington, D.C. 20231 Facsimile No. (703) 305-3230	Authorized officer Tekchand Saidha Telephone No. (703) 308-0196

Form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet)(July 1992)*